

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE: KNBROWN

APPROVED BY EUR: JAARMITAGE

EUR/EE: NGANDREWS

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R 270144Z PEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT:CHARGE BUZEK CALL ON ARMITAGE

1. CZECHOSLOVAK CHARGE BUZEK CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE FEBRUARY 26 TO DELIVER ORAL PROTEST ON FROLIK TESTIMONY. BUZEK READ STATEMENT APPARENTLY IDENTICAL TO ONE SPACIL DELIVERED IN PRAGUE.

2. ARMITAGE RESPONDED THAT WE ARE DISTURBED BY THE IMPLICATION OF THE STATEMENT THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT COULD OR SHOULD HAVE PREVENTED THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE FROM RELEASING THE REPORT. UNDER OUR SEPARATION OF POWERS WE CANNOT PREVENT CONGRESS FROM PUBLISHING ITS REPORTS. FURTHERMORE, THE STATEMENT'S REFERENCE TO THE INTENSITY OF A MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS A CLEAR EXAGGERATION.

3. MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARMITAGE CONTINUED, WE ARE CONCERNED BY THE IMPLICATION OF THE STATEMENT THAT WE ARE NOT SINCERE IN OUR "PROFESSED" DESIRE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS
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WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT IN PRAGUE
OVER THE FACT THAT OUR POLICY IS CLEARLY TO NORMALIZE
OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. ARMITAGE ALSO ADVISED BUZEK THAT HIS EMBASSY COULD

WRITE A LETTER TO THE NEW YORK TIMES PROTESTING
THE STORY ON THE FROLIK TESTIMONY TO SET THE RECORD
STRAIGHT. BUZEK ADMITTED THAT SINCE THE REPORT HAD
NOT RECEIVED MUCH CURRENCY, IT PROBABLY SHOULD
RECEIVE NO MORE PUBLICITY. KISSINGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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